PUBLICATIONS

### COLDSMITH'S MASTERPIECE AT THE NEW AMSTERDAM.

A Lenten Blessing for the Production Kyrle Bellew an Ever Young Marlowe 1 !canor Robson's Miss Hardeastle

Merely Mary Ann-Diggery the Clown. It may be wished that our old comedies served a better office than that of stopgap at the end of a petering season, and were the occasion of something more dignified than the exploitation of the temporarily unemployed; but nothing short of murder most foul can quite destroy their charm. Of all the plays of the elder stage, none is more brimming with the wine of classic humor, none riper with well observed and sincerely felt character than Geldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," which was put on last night for three weeks at the New Amsterdam. Coming in a season of rather thin lenten fare in the local playhouses, the occasion was one of much

Over the production it is not possible to speak more than a lenten blessing. Every effort, it is true, has been made to recom mend it. The three sets are rich, deep and claborate, the interior of the Three Figeons and the garden front of Mr. Hardcastle's house Leing quite beautiful. But the stage ceach which twice rumbles across the back of the stage, and the trap with a called pony which is led on only to be backed of, are matters of dubious propriety. Thank the good Lord there's no more

The acting was as undistinguished as the personnel of the cast is creditable. Mr. Kyrle Bellew makes a perennially young Marlove—infinitely more youthful than, let us say, Sarah Bernhardt in her most maidenly creation of rice powder and rouge. The air of make believe extended even to his attitudes and his applies. But it was a pretty make believe smiles. But it was a pretty make believe, and carried off with no small expertness in comedy and romance. There have been many far less satisfying performances in the part and last night it ranked almost as

many far less satisfying performances in the part and last night it ranked almost as a trumph.

Miss Eleanor Robson's impersonation of Miss Hardcas'le must be frankly set down as a disappointment—a grave disappointment in one who has so often exhibited sincere, even transcendent, abilities. It lacked breadth of method and ebullience of comic spirit. And when the gentlewoman was merged in the supposed barmaid, what a fall was there! A thick and unmistakably Irish brogue buttered her utterance, even while Marlows was exclaiming that she was "a pure English growth. I assure you!" It was merely Mary Ann—with a difference. Miss Robson has somewhere confessed that her accent in that delightful character was a bit of pure fake, but it had at least the propriety to be a fake English dialect.

The Tony Lumpkin of Sidney Drew was even dryer and more uninspired. It showed an expert command of the business of the actor, and with this the part is capable of causing much genuine laughter, for it is as near actor-proof as a part can well be. Mr. Drew was repeatedly welcomed with roars. But never for a moment did he denote the shrewd clownishness, the broad, spontaneous fun of the character.

The Diggory of J. E. Dodson was buffooned to an extent incredible in an actor who has so often proved his quality. On his first entrance he struck the attitude of a circus clown, and he exaggerated the traditional strides and guffaws of the part in a manner that fairly brought the aroma of sawdust into the nostrils. And it was not particularly artistic clowning at that. One Silvers of Madison Square could give him cards and spades. It was applauded, to be sure, in certain remote and elevated sections of the audience, but it is not the highest triumph in classical acting to be the subject of laughter for the gods.

sections of the audience, but it is not the highest triumph in classical acting to be the subject of laughter for the gods.

The Hardeastle of Mr. Louis James was theatrically effective in a rather hard and insistent manner; but it was not for a moment an interpretation of the character. The essence of it is a sort of robust spirit of the gentleman which swallows rebuff and insult out of a sense of personal dignity and lovality to an old-friend. Mr. James suggested little more than the rustic innkeper for whom Hardeastle was mistaken. The Hardings of Mr. Frank Mills was mumbled and indistinct, and the Old Marlou sof George ct, and the Old Marloweof George distinguished at best. As Miss Neville Miss Isabel Irving was pretty and

Neville Miss Isabel Irving was pretty and passably amusing.

The one bright snot in the evening was the Mrs. Hardcastle of Mrs. Calvert, recently arrived from England. At her first entrance she was denied the hand of hospitable welcome and this may have been the cause of a certain lack of spontaneity in her opening scene, but every movement and every intonation revealed the actor who knows and feels the character, and who scens to play for points. On her who scorns to play for points. On her first exit the audience warmly applauded her and continued to delight in her throughout. Her scenes of alternate tenderness and rage with her bumpkin son were carried off with the genuine spirit of old comedy.

cid comedy.

The last previous performance of the play, by Ben Greet's company at Daly's Theatre, was less effective as a whole, many of the parts being taken by actors of slight ability, and it was marred by an overelaboration of stage business, particularly in Mr. Greet's performance of Tony Lumpkin. But it somehow preserved more of the ripe atmosphere of the old comedy, and Miss Wynne Matthison's Miss Hardcastle in particular had a genuineness of character and feeling that linger gratefully in the memory. gratefully in the memory.

### REAL FIGHT AT THEHIPPODROME Snake Charmer and Caucastan Lady at

War Over Property Snake. There was a scrap between two women on the stage of the Hippodrome yesterday afternoon just before the afternoon performance began. Jeannette O'Brien, who plays the part of the snake charmer in the plays the part of the snake charmer in the "Yankee Circus on Mars," uses a papier maché snake. When she went looking for this "prop" yesterday afternoon she found the Caucasian lady of the circus troupe using it for a skipping rope.

The skipper had put the paper snake out of business as far as its usefulness for stage purposes was concerned, and Miss C'Erien was mad. She said a few things about Caucasian ladies, and she had to fight to make good.

Each woman pulled out some of the other's hair (real), and then the fight was stopped so the performance could begin.

"SAN TOY" BRIGHT AS EVER.

#### Revival at Daly's With New Appointments Pleases Large Audience.

San Toy" was revived at Daly's last hight and the audience seemed to be as much pleased with the revival as the large many of the members of the original com-

pany help along the revival.

Powers was never funnier than in the rôle of Li, the Chinaman. George Fortescue is playing his old rôle of Yen How, and his "Six Little Wives" are all pretty. Florence Smith is San Toy. She was a little hervous last night at the start, but when that wore off she played the rôle acceptably.

Manager Fisher has made the revival with new scenery and costumes. with new scenery and costumes.

### "The Firm of Cunningham's" Final Re-

hearsal. There was given yesterday afternoon a full dress rehearsal of Willis Steell's new dramatic forms of Cunningham" at the Madison Square Theatre. Inasmuch as it was impossible for the company, which has been precenting "Mrs. Temple's Telegram" at this theatre, to be in the city at the premier of this new comedy, which opens to-morrow night, Mr. Steell, the author, invited them to be present at the rehearsal.

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PUBLICATIONS.

have not yet brought themselves to the point of accepting advertising as the quickest method of distributing and standardizing their goods, are looking with secret envy at the success of other manufacturers who have been quick to accept this short cut to a large business.

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THE CURTES PUBLISHING COMPANY PHILADELPHIA

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

According to the London Academy cooperative history is the literary mode of the hour, and like other fashions its contemporary popularity appears to have spread from Paris. M. Lavisse is editing there the monumental "History of France;" Messrs. Longmans, the English firm, are issuing a twelve volume history of England on the same plan and the United States as usual goes them one better with a twentyeight volume American history under the care of Prof. A. B. Hart of Harvard. The first five volumes of "The American Nation" -a title which this English reviewer labels "Catholic if cocka whoop," have been well received and the second installment of five is progressing rapidly. The advantage of the cooperative method is that each phase of the history can be handled adequately by a specialist.

Kate Douglas Wiggin will leave New Yo k on April 21 for her annual visit to England and Scotland. The Misses Findlater who collaborated with her in "The Affair at the Inn," are returning with her to their home in Scotland.

San Antonio, Texas, where President Roosevelt attended the Rough Riders' reunion recently, is the scene of the opening chapters of Andy Adams's latest cattle story, "The Outlet." The book is dedicated to Mr. John R. Blocker of San Antonio

"Robert W. Chambers is the only man who can talk about things that one shouldn't talk about without appearing to talk about anything that one doesn't talk about," was the comment of a critic who has had the privilege of reading the advance sheets of Mr. Chambers's new book, "Iole," which will be brought out by Appletons next month. It is to be hoped that the book will be less complicated than the remark, and no more

The twentieth edition of "Nancy Stair" has just been issued in America, and it is larger by several thousand than any of the previous ones. A second edition for Engand was recently ordered by cable from London.

"The Wine Press" is a new book prom ised for May written by a woman for the purpose of demonstrating that women as a class hysterically exaggerate their wrongs at the hands of men. The book itself is not hysterical at all, but is enlivened by a pretty bit of romance.

Miss Kate Stephens, author of "American Thumb-prints," which the J. B. Lippincott Company offer among their spring publications, comes from good old American stock. Her forebears officered two famous expeditions of the English colonists, and later fought on the Colonial side in the War of Independence, which may have something to do with her acute understanding of certain facts and traits pre-sented in the essays of which her new book is made up. Miss Stephens had the chair of Greek literature at the University of Kansas for six years and she has edited several volumes and done much original work, both in the middle West and the East.

The appearance of a fifth edition of Mr. Bigelow's "Life of Franklin," first published thirty-one years ago, stamps with the authority of a classic this version of Franklin's famous memoir of the first six much pleased with the revival as the large audiences that greeted the play when it was first produced here four years ago at knows about Franklin, whether good or the same theatre. James T. Powers and bad, of enduring interest, and pretty much all that his numerous biographers have depended upon for interest, has been derived from Franklin's personal correspond-

> "The Worsted Man," just published by Harpers, is an amusing little operetta by John Kendrick Bangs, full of catchy refrains set to well known airs and quaint and humorous conceits thoroughly character istic of the author and his style. An amusing little bit of verse now floating about from the pen of Mr. Bangs was written at the request of the publishers of a new dramatic magazine. Mr. Bangs, recalling his recent theatrical experience when the Casino was burned there during the run of his play, "Lady Teazle," wrote the fol-

> > I do not often de the thing. But once I wrote a play. They had to burn the theatre To keep the folks away.

HE DESIGNER

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# TheCountry

MAY 1905 VOL. I NO. I

Spring has come to make us think of woods and blossoms and life in the country. and with it comes the first number of The Country Calendar, a beautiful magazine of country pursuits, useful and stimulating. In the May number, just published,

### **Ex-President Grover Cleveland**

tells in his own way of the uplift that comes from life in the country. In the woods, by the streams, as he has felt it in his many years of fellowship with nature. Intimate views of Mr. Cleveland fishing in his favorite haunts complete the article John Burroughs; Secretary Wilson, of the President's Cabinet; Director Liberty H. Bailey, of the Cornell Agricultural College; Dallas Lore Sharp, John R. Spears. Henry C. Rowland, Prof. F. A. Waugh, W. S. Harwood, Frances Duncan, Pres. J. Horace McFarland, of the American Civic Association, and twenty other dismake the fi

### Eight Important Departments

and one hundred large illustrated pages tell what is helpful and needful a: entertaining to know and do in May. Here are a few of the subjects:
"Every Man His Own Burbank," "Whitelaw Reid—Country Gentleman." "The

Quest of Nitrogen." "Growing Roses in the Open." "The Summer Succession of Salads," "The Kaiser's Yacht Race." "The Month's Work in Garden and Orchard." "A Home-Made Water Supply." "The Art of Pruning Shrubs," "The Cost of the Country House." "The Best Dog for the Country Home." "Co-operative Automobiles" and "The Golden Eagle of Mission Ridge," a really wonderful series of photographic studies made in the top of a lofty sycamore tree on a peak of the Sierras. THE REVIEW OF REVIEWS BOOK CO. has spared no expense to make THE COUNTRY CALENDAR the indispensable companion of all lovers of the country. A limited edition of this beautiful first number is on sale at bookstores and news-stands. Subscriptions may be sent to the publishers at 13 Astor Place, New York, N. Y



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### The Slanderers

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